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POSTWAR RECONSTRUCTION AND 1951 ACHIEVEMENTS OF  
 RUMANIAN RAILROAD EQUIPMENT REPAIR PLANT

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The Grivita Rosie railroad equipment repair plant of the CFR (Rumania Railway System) is the largest in Rumania. Since 23 August 1944, it has achieved many successes, becoming one of the most important links in the proper operation of the Rumanian railroad transportation system.

In spring and summer 1944, bombings by the Anglo-American air forces seriously damaged the Grivita plant. By 23 August 1944, the workshops were razed to the ground.

The Grivita plant workers started production while the plant was being rebuilt. During the months immediately following the liberation of Rumania, the Grivita plant began to repair the locomotives and cars required for supplying the battlefield, to seal troop cars, and to overhaul, rebuild, or repair the hospital trains required by Rumanian and Soviet troops.

Reconstruction of the plant, the principal production unit in Rumanian transportation was one of the main tasks of the Grivita railroad repair workers. Bourgeois "specialists" estimated that it would take 5 to 6 years to reconstruct the Grivita plant, but the railroad workers, realizing the importance of the transportation system in the war against Nazi Germany and in the struggle for economic reconstruction, succeeded, under the guidance of the party, in rebuilding the Grivita plant almost completely within one year.

The successes attained by the Grivita Rosie plant during the first 2 years of planned economy paved the way for the present achievements.

During the first three quarters of 1951, the first year of the Five Year Plan, Grivita workers attained important successes in production. Total production (in fixed prices) for the period 1 January - 30 September was 1.342 times greater than planned and 1.805 times greater than for the corresponding period of 1950.

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This production increase is due, to a large extent, to an increase in the productivity of labor, which during the first 9 months of 1951 exceeded the plan 21.3 percent. The individual worker's labor productivity for the period 1 January - 30 September 1951 was 48.9 percent greater than for the corresponding period of 1950, while for the period 1 July - 30 September 1951 it was 33.6 percent greater than for the corresponding period in 1950 and 87.9 percent greater than for the period 1 January - 31 March 1950.

The Soviet work methods adopted by Grivita workers have greatly assisted them in attaining these successes. The Bykov-Bortkevich method of high-speed metal cutting, is used by 30 workers, the Kuznetsov method of reconditioning tools by 36, and the method of Soviet Stalhanovite Antonina Zhandarova by 32. The Mina Nazarova method of socialist maintenance of machinery, introduced at Grivita by leading worker Iancu Grigorescu, is used by 305 workers. The collective of welding section V has adopted the method of cross welding of stay bolts, which is now used by 24 workers. Lately, the Grivita plant has also adopted the method developed by Soviet engineer Kovalev, which is used by 15 workers in the boiler section and by two groups in the railroad car assembly section. The Voroshin method is being used by 567 workers.

Also very popular is the Kotlyar method of skill improvement on the job; 164 men developed their skill by this method in January 1951, and another 239 during the first 10 days of November.

The USSR has also delivered much equipment and machinery. The Grivita plant received many horizontal planing machines, blueprint machines, pneumatic and electric machines, pneumatic drills, pneumatic polishers, and similar machinery.

Greater participation in socialist competitions during 1951 accounted, to a considerable extent, for the greater productivity of labor. During the first quarter 1951 only 62 percent of the Grivita Rosie employees participated in socialist competitions; and during the second quarter only 64.8 percent, but as many as 75 percent participated during the third quarter. The figures for participation by teams are even more impressive. While only 36 percent participated during the first quarter and 43 percent during the second, up to 83 percent of the total number of teams entered the competition during the third quarter 1951.

The pledges made by the Grivita Rosie workers in honor of the 34th anniversary of the October Revolution and the 50th birthday of Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej were exceeded. The team led by Florea Stancu of locomotive foundry section I has exceeded its pledge 40 percent. In the welding, spring, and car-foundry-forge sections, the pledges were surpassed 35, 39, and 40 percent, respectively.

The large number of leading workers at the Grivita plant testified to their new attitude toward work. For instance, locomotive builder Iosif Dragomir regularly exceeds his norms 45 percent. He saves 1,825 lei worth of materials per month and helps his fellow workers who fall behind schedule. The four rationalizations which he introduced in recent months saved the Grivita plant 600,000 lei. Likewise, boiler worker Ion Urleanu exceeds his norm 106 percent. By using the Kotlyar method he has trained five young workers. Cutter Toma Teodorescu, who regularly exceeds the norm 70 percent, fulfilled his 1951 production schedule on 20 August and since then has been working on his 1952 schedule. By using the Kovalev method, carpenter Predoiu Petre exceeds his norm 50 percent.

The well-balanced indexes realized by the Grivita Rosie collective during the first half of 1951 reflect the spirited work of all its members. While

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by the end of June total production had increased 114.4 percent over that of December 1949, the salary fund had increased only 82.5 percent. The number of workers had increased 24 percent since December 1949. The 72.8 percent increase in labor productivity is accompanied by a 47.1-percent increase in the average worker's salary.

For their tireless efforts to exceed the plan during the first 6 months of 1951, the workers of the Grivita Rosie plant were awarded the Red Banner for production in the transportation industry.

An intensive rationalization and innovation movement is under way at the plant. During the last few months alone, a large number of innovations were put in practice, with substantial reductions of expenses in several sections.

Gheorghe Pupaza designed two micrometers for measuring the play in locomotive wheel bearings. Prior to this innovation play was measured by repeatedly hoisting the locomotive off its wheels until the proper play in the wheel bearings was determined. This procedure was very expensive. Pupaza's method will save the Grivita Rosie Plant 535,000 lei yearly. Likewise, Constantin Cojocaru designed a set of pneumatic scissors for cutting sheet metal, the use of which will save the workshops over one million lei annually. In addition, the innovations of Nicolai Mihalache, Constantin Stoian, and Constantin Cojocaru will lead to economies of nearly 900,000 lei a year.

The rationalization and innovation movement is closely connected with the various measures taken at Grivita Rosie for the protection of the country's most valuable asset, manpower. Today the workshops are equipped with modern heating and ventilation systems. The carpentry shop, which used to be filled with harmful dust is now equipped with the exhaust fan which absorbs all the dust during working hours and leaves the air pure. The paint shop is now equipped with a ventilation system which removes gasoline vapors and other impurities. A similar ventilation system was installed in the boiler section.

Much attention is paid to the installation of safety devices in the machine-tool and electric motors sections. Safety instructions are posted everywhere. In the foundry, where the number of accidents was rather high, a schedule for removing charges from the furnace is posted for the workers' benefit. Crowding at the mouth of the furnace, the cause of many accidents, is thus avoided.

Several courses on industrial safety are now being given. Moreover, safety inspectors have been recruited from among the graduates of these safety courses organized by the plant committee.

Preparation for the winter months is another major concern of the Grivita plant. Roof and window repairs, checking of hot water heating units and radiators, and similar steps, which during the bourgeois regime were carried out in midwinter if at all, are now completed long before winter. The Grivita workers have fulfilled their pledge to Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej by completing the winterizing of their shops on 1 October 1951.

Grivita Rosie workers are reducing the specific consumption of materials. Savings of nonferrous metals have been especially substantial. Large quantities of bronze were saved by substituting iron in producing coat hangers, locomotive number plates, connecting-rod covers, etc. Likewise, a great deal of brass was saved by replacing it with iron in such items as car window frames and ashtrays. The savings resulting from reduction of nonferrous metals consumption amounted to several million lei.

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Deficiencies in the supply of materials to the Grivita plant still cause delays in production. For instance, the management of the Grivita Rosie plant has been unable to secure steam pipes and smokestacks in time and in sufficient quantities. As a consequence, the delivery of locomotive boilers is delayed and, moreover, it is necessary to use steam pipes from locomotives awaiting repairs. The workshop management should be able to overcome these deficiencies by improving its relations with supplying enterprises and renewing its efforts to secure the necessary materials from them.

During 1951, the workers, technicians, and engineers of the Grivita Rosie plant participated extensively in the struggle for the increased profitability of their enterprise. They attained significant successes by strict observance of the principles of planned management, by their constant concern for the reduction of production costs and consumption of materials, and by mobilizing the internal reserves of the Grivita plant.

An important factor in the struggle for profitability has been proper use of the skills of personnel, and optimum utilization of equipment in the various sections of the Grivita plant. Moreover, every attempt has been made to recover old materials buried in the ground since the 1944 bombings. The tempo of the struggle for fewer rejects has been stepped up, especially in the foundry and iron section, with a premium placed on individual responsibility.

Impressive results were attained as a result of the constant efforts of plant personnel. Production costs during the first, second, and third quarters of 1951 were, respectively, 10.4 percent, 14.4 percent, and 15.8 percent lower than planned.

The total economies realized by the Grivita plant during the period 1 January - 30 September 1951 exceeded 187 million lei.

The reconstruction of war-damaged buildings was not an ordinary rebuilding job. It was conceived as a major project designed to rearrange the location of the buildings, which were rebuilt according to the latest construction methods. In addition, many new buildings have been erected since the end of the war. They include a new electric machinery shop, a new carpentry shop, a new tool shop, and a new bronze foundry.

In the past the canteen of the Grivita plant was run by speculators. The workers used to receive very inadequate meals at exorbitant prices. Today, workers are served a substantial meal at a very low price. The canteen receives much of its food directly from the farm attached to the Grivita Rosie plant. This farm recently began to raise pigs for the needs of the canteen. Good hygienic conditions prevail at the canteen, which is inspected daily by a doctor of the Grivita Rosie polyclinic. There is also a dietetic canteen feeding 350 workers.

One of the principal achievements has been the establishment of the Grivita Rosie polyclinic. Located in a brand new building, the polyclinic is staffed with 31 physicians and is equipped with the latest medical instruments and apparatus. Many new Soviet medical methods, such as that of Professor Filatov, are used at the polyclinic; surgical operations are also performed. Two years ago, a "night sanatorium," set up according to the pattern of equivalent Soviet institutions, was established for the first time in Rumania. Leading workers and those who have distinguished themselves in the production field are given an opportunity to rest under optimum conditions in this 43-bed night sanatorium, which is connected with the polyclinic and has a canteen of its own.

The Grivita Rosie plant also has a nursery for the children of its employees, a club, a library, and other facilities.

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The scope of Grivita Rosie social and cultural activities is impressive. However, certain shortcomings should be remedied. One of these is the failure of the plant management and plant committee to find larger quarters for the canteen, which feeds 4,500-4,800 workers daily. Since only about 1,200 workers can eat at one time, up to 10,000 hours of working time are wasted a month. Likewise, the attendance at various political and cultural meetings is limited by the lack of space.

The workers, technicians, engineers, and other employees of the Grivita plant have wholeheartedly joined the struggle for fulfillment of the 1951 plan in 11 months. The total production plan for October 1951 was exceeded 62.3 percent. Grivita Rosie workers have been working on their 1952 quotas since 10 October insofar as the value of production is concerned, and since 4 November insofar as norm-hours are concerned.

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